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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/767,266	TAMAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John D. Lee	2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filing on January 30, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

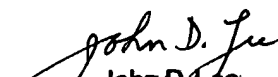
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>0104</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |


John D. Lee
Primary Examiner

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

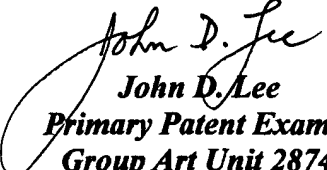
The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance: After a detailed search of the prior art, the documents cited on the attached forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449 are deemed to be the closest known prior art. All of the cited prior art documents fail to disclose or reasonably suggest an optical wavelength conversion device for converting an excitation light pulse of central wavelength λ_S into light pulses of central wavelengths $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_n$, the device comprising a supercontinuum (SC) light generator generating SC light spectrally distributed over the wavelength range λ_L to λ_H , the excitation light pulse being incident upon the SC light; and an optical wavelength filter for filtering the SC light; wherein the specific wavelength relationships (1), (2-1), ..., (2-n) set forth in applicant's claim 1 are satisfied. The Examiner's search has uncovered several prior art documents showing optical wavelength conversion devices utilizing supercontinuum (SC) light sources. These documents, however, do not even hint at the claimed specific wavelength relationships which are required by the claimed device. The undersigned Examiner, therefore, considers the claimed optical wavelength conversion device to be patentably distinct from all those of the prior art. Claims 1-15 herein are thus allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

DISCUSSION OF THE CITED PRIOR ART

As noted above, the prior art made of record on the attached forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449 is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, but does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. The U.S. Patents to Okuno et al, Watanabe et al, Jalali et al, and Watanabe describe optical wavelength conversion devices utilizing supercontinuum (SC) light sources. None of these documents, however, discloses or suggests the specific optical wavelength conversion device set forth in the allowed claims. The two (2) Japanese Patent documents cited on the attached form PTO-1449 have also been considered but they likewise do not disclose or suggest the specific optical wavelength conversion device set forth in the allowed claims.

Any inquiry concerning the merits of this communication should be directed to Examiner John D. Lee at telephone number (571) 272-2351. The Examiner's normal work schedule is Tuesday through Friday, 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Any inquiry of a general or clerical nature (i.e. a request for a missing form or paper, etc.) should be directed to the Technology Center 2800 receptionist at telephone number (571) 272-1562, to the technical support staff supervisor (Team 8) at telephone number (571) 272-1564, or to the Technology Center 2800 Customer Service Office at telephone number (571) 272-1626.


John D. Lee
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2874